

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 30th September, 1871.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

A BUDAON correspondent of the *Naiyir-i-Akbar* of the 21st September asserts that on the 17th idem a severe fight took place at the wrestling-ground in that city between opposite factions of wrestlers in consequence of a disputed victory. The wrestlers pelted one another with stones, and were seen running towards the interior of the city abusing one another and with drops of blood running down their heads. Some of the spectators who had gone to see the wrestling, including a few of the students of the school, were also hurt. But though the dispute reached such a pitch, neither of the parties lodged a complaint for fear lest wrestling might be entirely prohibited by the authorities; and the police did not interfere. The writer remarks that as such troublesome assemblies are against the law, the authorities should cause them to be stopped.

A Ghazeeabad correspondent of the same paper reports that on the 15th September, a bunneah, while travelling from Delhi to that city in a conveyance with his wife and an infant child, was plundered by a party of robbers at a distance of three *kos* from Ghazeeabad. The robbers attacked the conveyance, beat the bunneah, and then ruthlessly tore the rings from the nose and ears of the woman and stripped the child of his ornaments.

A Burhanpore correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbar* of the 22nd September, notices the collection of the *pandhari* tax in

that city. It is stated that this year great difficulty has been experienced in raising the tax, because the people found it very hard to pay. The way in which it has been collected is also quite a new one. Formerly, the people were made to pay the tax into the tehsil treasury by proclamation; but this year the work of collection was entrusted by the tehsildar to Government officials, such as mohurris of the tehsil, Forest Department, and other offices. The mohurris, each attended by a chuprassee, had to go from one house to another to collect the tax, and in all probability the same practice will be kept to in coming years, as the people, having once known that Government officials come to their houses to raise the tax, are not likely to take the trouble of going to the kutcherry to pay it. The writer takes exception to the course, and thinks it a great pity that the poor officials should have to do the extra duty and undergo the humiliation of going from door to door to collect the assessment, without receiving any commission or recompense in return for a work which is quite distinct from their fixed duties. The malgoozars or lumberdars in villages, to whom the collection of the *pandhari* tax falls, are paid a commission at the rate of three per cent., but the poor officials receive nothing for the duty, and have to incur the odium of such of the people as have been assessed above their income or means. The correspondent also complains that the task of collection devolves wholly on inferior officials, and that higher officials like tehsildars, canoongoes, and naib-tehsildars, are exempted from the duty. This practice is said to obtain nowhere except in Burhanpore. So, also, the collection of the income-tax in this city is entrusted to seeahah nuveeses unlike all other districts, where a separate mohurri is appointed for the duty. The writer wonders that the rules for Burhanpore should be quite different from those obtaining in all other districts.

The same paper learns from its contemporaries that there has been no rain in Dhulia (Khandesh) and Ahmednuggur till now, in consequence of which the price of grain has risen very

high, while pasture is scarcely to be got. In the latter city wheat sells at six, *joár* at seven, and rice at five seers a rupee.

In another article, the same paper notices the proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to raise a tax from tobacco. The editor is averse to the proposal, and remarks that, though there could be no objection to increase the duty on intoxicating drugs, it is improper to levy an additional tax on an article of public utility, such as tobacco.

The same paper gives an account of the murder of Chief Justice Norman and the circumstances attending it, and takes this occasion to point out the necessity of European and Native officers being at all times escorted by a suitable number of horsemen. All men cannot be expected to be the well-wishers of officers, and even if one among a hundred be their enemy, he ought to be feared. The editor regrets that Government takes no notice of the suggestion now made here for a second time; for he had invited its attention to it on a former occasion, when a similar assault was made on the Resident of Moorshedabad.

The *Koh-i-Núr* of the 23rd September, in noticing the same sad incident, thinks it a great pity that according to the law the life of a distinguished personage like the Chief Justice and that of the worthless ruffian his assassin will be weighed in the same balance; and remarks that such cruel wretches ought to be subjected to some extraordinary punishment which might serve to give warning to the whole world.

The *Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb* of the 22nd September, and the *Koh-i-Núr* of the 23rd September, publish the proceedings of a meeting of the Anjuman-i-Panjáb held on 16th idem to express the grief felt at the death of Moonshee Jaishee Ram, Officiating Judge of the Small Cause Court, Lahore. Speeches and addresses were read by several Natives of note, in which the services rendered by the Moonshee and his family to Government were recounted, and the general

grief caused by his death, his popular and amiable manners, his accomplishments as an officer, and his virtues as a man, were eloquently described. The proceedings ended with a proposal to raise a handsome subscription in order to associate the name of the deceased with the Punjab. The *Koh-i-Nur* publishes a list of the subscriptions which have already been collected. It is yet a question in what way to perpetuate the Moonshee's memory, opinions being divided on the subject.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 22nd September learns from the *Calcutta Gazette* that the act relating to the census of Bengal has received the sanction of the Governor-General's Council. Section XVII. of the act provides that any person who at the time the enumeration is taken fails to answer questions asked of him, or misstates the number of persons in his family, shall be liable to punishment. The editor remarks that Natives have long been under an impression that a census is taken simply for the purpose of taxation; and, consequently, think it to their advantage to conceal the right number. For this reason he is of opinion that before taking the census, a proclamation should be made explaining to the people that the object of Government in so doing is no other than to compare the present population of the country with what it was in past years, and that therefore any person who makes misstatements will be punished. By this plan it is probable the people will be induced to tell the truth.

The same paper notices the order issued by the Chief Commissioner of Oudh to Magistrates, to the effect that, as the people of the province are in the habit of selling their daughters to persons coming there from foreign cities, they should exercise personal supervision over all such persons, and at the time of their departure from a city should satisfy themselves in every way that they have not made unlawful purchases. The editor approves of the order, but suggests that the best plan for putting a stop to the abuse is that magistrates should call on female sweepers, from whom no event that passes in a family can be kept secret, to make a report of

all transactions of the kind, giving them clearly to understand that if on inquiry any of them is found guilty of having concealed the facts or neglected to report them, she will be brought to a severe punishment, and that if, on the other hand, they give the right information in such cases, they will be rewarded. This plan will not fail to put an effective check to the pernicious practice of selling girls for money.

A correspondent of the *Koh-i-Nur* of the 23rd September states that on the 12th idem an accident happened on the Jumna Railway Bridge at Delhi, the particulars of which were these. When the 7 a.m. train, after leaving the station at Delhi, reached the bridge, about two hundred bullocks which were then passing over the bridge took fright and ran in different directions. Ten of them ran on the railroad, four being killed by the train, and the rest severely wounded. Fortunately, the train received no injury from the accident and did not deviate from its course. The inspector of police is making inquiries, and the dealers are under arrest. The correspondent remarks that these poor persons, who are totally ignorant, and, accordingly, cannot be expected to know the times at which a train passes the bridge, are not to blame for what has happened. The fault rests entirely on the contractors or other persons in charge of the bridge, provided there were any previous orders requiring them to take precautions in such cases. The correspondent believes that steps will now be taken to preclude a recurrence of such accidents.

An Umballah correspondent of the same paper remarks on the case of Mr. Davis of Jheend, which recently made a great noise in English newspapers. It is stated that the man is not *imprisoned*, as has been erroneously given out, but is detained at Sangrur on account of the liability of a debt of Rs. 1,200 or 1,300, which he owes the Rajah. The correspondent considers it strange that editors of English newspapers should have preferred such heavy complaints on his account, and asks if the Rajah can actually be to blame for detaining at

his capital a man who, besides being his debtor, is his own *employé*, and lives in his own territory, and is not only not a European by birth, but has a dark complexion like that of the Natives.

The *Kárnámáh* of the 25th September, in its column of local news, recounts the distress and misery brought on the people of Lucknow by the recent heavy rain. According to the police reports from some of the *thannahs*, the loss of life is estimated at 70 souls, but the full number cannot be known until all the *thannahs* have sent in their reports. Thousands of houses have been either wholly or partially destroyed, and scarcely any has escaped uninjured. Between Allahpore and Nawabgunj the road was for several days one sheet of water, in consequence of which several conveyances sunk and a few men were drowned. Fyzabad has suffered a similar fate. Not only have numerous new buildings been demolished, but old edifices, such as the mausoleum of the late Bahú Begum Sahiba, a remarkably strong and durable building, have likewise gone to wreck.

The writer goes on to depict in vivid colours the miseries to which the poor inhabitants have been subjected by the catastrophe, and calls upon the Chief Commissioner to take their pitiable state into his favourable consideration, and render aid to them out of the remainder of the Orissa Famine Fund and other contributions, which have been laid out in Government promissory-notes, in order that the people may be enabled to rebuild their houses, and by that means the city may be saved from being depopulated. The fund was raised expressly with the object of relieving the poor in a time of distress, and will be best spent on such an occasion.

It is added, that thieves have taken advantage of the destruction of the houses in the city ; they boldly carry away the planks, &c., of the buildings in ruins, and openly sell them in the market.

In another article, likewise in the column of local news, the same paper draws attention to the injustice done to the

contractors with whom the Commandant of the Fort last year made a bargain concerning the sale of the building materials buried in the sterile plain around the fort. Soon after the contract had been made, the Commander-in-Chief, on visiting the spot, expressed his displeasure at its uneven and irregular state, on which the contractors were prohibited from digging out the materials, and were ordered to level the plain. Nevertheless, the poor men had to pay the sum stipulated for, and thus underwent great loss. This year the same land was let to them to till. In the hope of recovering the loss sustained in the past year, the contractors dug out bricks, &c., from the ground, in order to make it fit for cultivation. Unhappily for them, however, the City Magistrate, on being aware of this, came to the spot, caused the store of materials dug up to be confiscated, and fined them for disobedience of orders. But the misfortunes of the contractors do not end here, as it is still a question whether or not they will be made liable to payment of the amount of contract on the expiry of the term.

The *Benares Akhbár* of the 28th September laments the distress to which Jounpore was subjected by the recent overflow of the Goomtee, which overwhelmed the whole city with water. The loss of life caused by the sad incident is said to be 400 souls.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Agra Akhbár* of the 20th September is glad to observe that the Punjab Government has succeeded in establishing a university in the Punjab, and wishes that the day may come when the North-Western Provinces may boast of the same honour. The writer goes on to notice the excellent way in which the administration of the Punjab University has been conducted by Dr. Leitner. It is remarked that, as the Doctor is a proficient in Oriental learning, the rules and regulations framed by him for the university are marked by good sense and ability. While conformity with the rules of the Calcutta University has, in the main, been kept in view, some necessary deviations from them have been adopted, so that the

rules for one university may be said to be connected with, and at the same time distinct from, those of the other. For example, the same total of marks as has been assigned by the Calcutta University for five subjects has been set down by the Punjab University for two, a plan by which, while the results of the examinations in the two universities are similar, the latter has a peculiar advantage over the former, inasmuch as its candidates will be found to have a better knowledge of the few subjects in which they pass than their competitors in the Calcutta University, which professes to impart proficiency in a medley of subjects. The writer hopes that the proposed university for the North-Western Provinces will adopt such universal and comprehensive schemes as may produce results better still than those achieved by the Calcutta and the Punjab Universities.

The same paper notices the falling down of the roof of the room in which the Inspector of the 2nd Circle, Department of Public Instruction, North-Western Provinces, holds his office, on the 12th September. Had not the Inspector been absent on leave at the time, his death would have been certain, as a beam of the roof fell on his chair, and the accident happened at 11 a.m., the time at which the office is open. The editor thinks it a great mistake that a house-rent of Rs. 80 a month is allowed by Government, and yet no building is permanently secured for the office. Every year the office is removed from one place to another when the tour season comes, and this constant change of place causes great confusion in its arrangements. As in consequence of the removal of the seat of Government from Agra, many office-buildings are lying unoccupied, it would be well, in the editor's opinion, if one of these were appropriated for the Inspector's office.

The *Urdu Akhbár* of the 24th September joins its contemporaries in considering Dr. Leitner, M.A., Ph. D., as the right man to succeed Captain Holroyd as Director of Public Instruction, Punjab. The Doctor is stated to be a master-spirit of the age in Oriental learning. He studied Arabic for several

years in Egypt, and is a proper person to be placed at the head of the Educational Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 22nd September praises Mr. Bramly, Judge of Allygurh, for offering out of his own pocket a liberal sum of Rs. 5,000 for the purchase of a house for the dispensary. The building is very spacious and is well suited for the purpose for which it has been secured, and Mr. Bramly will long be remembered for this remarkable proof of his generosity.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, *viz.* :—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.		DATE OF RECEIPT.	
			1871.	1871.	1871.	1871.
1	<i>Gwalior Gazette</i> ,	... Gwalior,	Sept.	17th	Sept.	25th
2	<i>Márwár Gazette</i> ,	... Jodhpore,	„	18th	„	27th
3	<i>Oudh Akhbár</i> ,	... Lucknow,	„	19th	„	25th
4	<i>Akhbár-i-Ám</i> ,	... Lahore,	„	20th	„	25th
5	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbár</i> ,	... Delhi,	„	20th	„	26th
6	<i>Agra Akhbár</i> ,	... Agra,	„	20th	„	28th
7	<i>Málwá Akhbár</i> ,	... Indour,	„	20th	„	29th
8	<i>Akhbár-i-Alam</i> ,	... Meerut,	„	21st	„	26th
9	<i>Naiyir-i-Akbar</i> ,	... Bijnour,	„	21st	„	28th
10	<i>Lawrence Gazette</i> ,	... Meerut,	„	22nd	„	26th
11	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette</i> ,	... Allygurh,	„	22nd	„	26th
12	<i>Akhbár-i-Anjuman-i-Panjáb</i> Lahore,	„	22nd	„	26th
13	<i>Shams-ul-Akhbár</i> ,	Lucknow,	„	22nd	„	27th
14	<i>Oudh Akhbár</i> ,	Ditto,	„	22nd	„	28th
15	<i>Rajpútána Social Science Congress</i> .	Jaipore,	„	22nd	„	28th
16	<i>Urdú Delhi Gazette</i> ,	Agra,	„	23rd	„	26th
17	<i>Koh-i-Núr</i> ,	Lahore,	„	23rd	„	26th
18	<i>Panjábí Akhbár</i> ,	Ditto,	„	23rd	„	26th
19	<i>Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb</i> ,	Gujranwalla,	„	23rd	„	26th
20	<i>Majma-ul-Bahrain</i> ,	Ludhiana,	„	23rd	„	27th
21	<i>Rohilkund Samáchár Patr</i> ,	Mooradabad,	„	23rd	„	29th
22	<i>Ditto, Akhbár</i> ,	Ditto,	„	23rd	„	29th
23	<i>Urdú Akhbár</i> ,	Delhi,	„	24th	„	29th
24	<i>Benares Gazette</i> ,	Benares,	„	25th	„	27th
25	<i>Kárnamah</i> ,	Lucknow,	„	25th	„	28th
26	<i>Oudh Akhbár</i> ,	Ditto,	„	26th	„	29th
27	<i>Benares Akhbár</i> ,	Benares,	„	28th	„	30th

ALLAHABAD:
The 17th October, 1871. }

SOHAN LALL,
Offg. Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of
Upper India.

